

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 18, starting at line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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a1      The configuration of the iris camera module 90 where the external circuit 92 is attached will be described referring to Fig. 12. In Fig. 12, the same configuration as that of the iris camera module in Fig. 5 is assigned the same numerals and corresponding description is omitted. In Fig. 12, the comparison chip 40 in Fig. 2 is provided external to the iris camera module. That is, the external circuit 92 performs the same operation as the comparison chip 40. An I/F section 120 is an interface connecting the iris camera module 90 and the external circuit ~~90~~ 92.

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